

through the weekend to bridge that gap. We have made some progress, but we are not where we should be yet.

There is another way in which the sides remain separated. Democrats have demonstrated throughout this process that we are willing to meet in the middle, but Republicans and the tea party continue to reject reality and insist, instead, on ideology. Let me give a couple of examples.

First, they refuse to recognize H.R. 1—that is the budget the House passed—isn't going to happen. The tea party pushed it through the House over the objections of some Republicans and all Democrats. Then, the Senate soundly defeated it. Even all Republicans didn't vote for this H.R. 1 in the Senate. We all know the President would never sign it into law anyway.

So the Republican Party and the tea party need to admit the Democrats have proven what the country already knows—that neither party can pass a budget without the other party and neither Chamber can send it to the President without the other Chamber. Democrats stand ready to meet the Republicans halfway and the Senate stands ready to meet the House halfway. We hope our partners on the other side are willing to be as reasonable.

Second, tea party Republicans refuse to recognize that their budget is simply an appalling proposal. They stomp their feet and call “compromise” a dirty word and insist on a budget that will hurt America rather than help it. It slashes programs for the sake of slashing programs. It chops zeros off the budget for nothing more than bragging rights. The authors and advocates of the Republican budget either completely ignore the practical impact of their dangerous cuts or they know the damage they will do and simply don't care. Either way, it is not right.

Their budget would not do a thing to lower unemployment. In fact, it will cost the country 700,000 jobs. That is not my estimate but the estimate of the head of Moody's, an independent economist who has worked for both Democrats and Republicans.

It will also hurt seniors. It slashes funding from the Social Security Administration, which means seniors and disabled Americans who count on the benefits they have earned over a lifetime of hard work will have to wait for these benefits. In many cases, those Social Security checks are seniors' only source of income. In some cases, they are the only thing keeping them out of poverty, and those checks have nothing at all to do with the deficit—nothing.

The Republican budget will hurt women and their families. It cuts nutritional programs for women, infants, and children. This program has nothing to do with the deficit. This program—the WIC Program, Women, Infants and Children—is a program for the very poor. Their budget makes cuts to Planned Parenthood based on ideology, not economics. Planned Parenthood

doesn't contribute to the deficit, but it does contribute, in great measure, to the health and safety of women of every age in every State.

Their budget will also hurt our veterans. There is a veterans program in this country that helps homeless veterans afford housing. Democrats think our Nation's veterans who are down and out deserve a roof over their heads, and we think it is a worthy program. The Republican budget nearly eliminates it.

Their budget will also hurt students. The tea party plan kicks hundreds of thousands of impoverished boys and girls out of Head Start, a program to allow them to learn to read—little preschool kids. It cuts college students' Pell grants and slashes job training programs. That is no way to recover.

Independent economists have analyzed the tea party's plan and found it will actually put the brakes on economic growth. The point of this whole exercise—of a budget—is to help the economy. Democrats will not stand for a budget that weakens our economy.

None of the people I have just mentioned led us into the recession. Punishing innocent bystanders, such as seniors, women, veterans, and students will not lead us to a recovery. This is what we mean when we say their budget is based on ideology and not reality. This is what we mean when we say the Republican and tea party budget slashes irresponsibly. When they refuse to relent on those dangerous cuts—many of which have nothing to do with the deficit—that is what we mean when we say the other side simply isn't being reasonable.

Our national budget reflects our values and the tough choices we make. Democrats have made many tough choices because we know sacrifices are the cost of consensus, and we believe they are worth it. But we have never forgotten that what we cut is more important than how much we cut.

In addition to the many choices about what to slash and what to keep, the Republican leadership has another very big choice to make: It has to decide whether it will do what the tea party wants it to do or what the country needs it to do.

I am hopeful it will make the right choice and we can come to a timely agreement. But the bottom line is this: At the end of the day, we are all on the same side. Time now is not on our side. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, amidst all the other business we will be facing this week, I wish to note a welcome development in the war on terror.

For the last 2 years, the Obama administration has actively sought to bring the 9/11 plotters into our communities for civilian trials, a completely horrible idea that rightly drew overwhelming bipartisan opposition from the American people and from their elected Representatives here in Congress. Today, the administration is announcing it has changed course. The administration, incredibly enough, today is announcing it has changed course and that Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and the others who plotted these horrible attacks will be tried in military commissions at Guantanamo Bay rather than in a civilian trial in New York or some other U.S. city.

I remember all of our discussions on this issue over the last 2 years. The President issued an Executive order on day 1 to close Guantanamo. He indicated they were going to mainstream these terrorists into the U.S. court system, so this change today is truly a welcome development, the administration announcing that KSM and the others who plotted these crimes will be tried in a proper jurisdiction, these military commissions, at the proper place for these commission trials, Guantanamo Bay. This is the right outcome to the long and spirited debate that preceded this decision. Military commissions at Guantanamo, far from the U.S. mainland, were always the right idea for a variety of compelling reasons which I and others have enumerated repeatedly over the last years. For the sake of the safety and the security of the American people, I am glad the President reconsidered his position on how and where to try these detainees. Going forward, this model should be the rule rather than the exception. I am sure this decision will draw widespread approval and it is very welcome news.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE COTE D'IVOIRE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President I am going to come back at 4 o'clock today

because there is something going on. With all the people talking about the atrocities in Libya and throughout the Middle East, there is one more atrocity that is taking place right now in a country called Cote D'Ivoire in West Africa. I want to make sure I get on record in that I believe our State Department is wrong in the position they have taken. I think we can right now avert a real tragedy, something maybe comparable to what happened in 1994 in Rwanda with that genocide. I want to come back and talk about that, but I am going to do that sometime around 4 o'clock this afternoon.

CAP AND TRADE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the business at hand is the amendments to the small business act. The amendment that has been most talked about is the one I have authored, along with Senator McCONNELL. It is the same thing as the bill I introduced some time ago with Congressman FRED UPTON of the House and myself in the Senate.

To give a little background, let me say this has been about a 9-year battle for me. I have gone back, all the way back to Kyoto when we talked about the fact that we were going to have to do something to limit greenhouse gases at that time. This was a national treaty at that time during the Clinton-Gore administration. Everyone at that time stated and believed, and I agreed because no one said anything to the contrary, that anthropogenic gases, greenhouse gases, methane and so forth, CO₂, caused catastrophic global warming. That started with the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change. It met many years ago, back in the 1990s.

Then there was a wakeup call and we thought, Why should we, the United States of America, sign on to a treaty when the rest of the world was not going to do it, when it was going to be difficult for us economically, and it would not affect the developing world? So we passed a resolution saying we were not going to do it.

However, right after that, starting in 2003—2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, and as recently as last year—different Members have introduced legislation that would impose almost the same thing as the Kyoto treaty on us and that is cap and trade.

At that time, Republicans were the majority. I was the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. In that committee we thought we had better look at this to make sure the science is there. This is important, because we had found out that for us to pass a cap-and-trade bill, the cost would be somewhere between \$300 and \$400 billion a year. My feeling, as chairman of that committee, was let's find out if in fact the science is there.

Scientists started coming to me—one after another and another when they knew I was going to at least question the legitimacy of the science—and

said: The science is not there. We would like the opportunity to get our views in.

That became a reality, so we defeated all the bills up to and including the Waxman-Markey bill that passed the House and came over to the Senate. Let me say we are talking about something that would cost the American people between \$300 billion and \$400 billion a year.

Sometimes I am not quite as smart as some of the guys here, so when you talk about billions and trillions of dollars I like to look and see how does that affect my State of Oklahoma. I have the total number of tax returns filed by Oklahomans. I do the math. When you do the math with \$300 to \$400 billion a year that means it would cost my average taxpayer who files a tax return in Oklahoma a little over \$3,100 a year.

If that is going to stop the world from coming to the end, maybe it is worth that. But what do you get for that? I even asked Lisa Jackson, the Administrator of the EPA. She is one appointed by President Obama. I asked her in a public hearing if we were to pass any of these cap-and-trade bills that would be so costly to Americans, what would it do in terms of greenhouse gases?

Her response was it would do very little if anything because that would only affect the United States of America and that is not where the problem is. The problem is in China and India and Mexico, places where they do not have any restraints on emissions. So as we lost our jobs to other states, obviously it is going to end up not decreasing but increasing the emissions of CO₂.

That is where we were. We passed all these things. With the President absolutely committed to doing something about the emissions of CO₂, he decided he would do through regulation what he could not do through legislation. We had legislation that could not pass and so obviously he went ahead and started saying we are going to let the EPA do the same thing as we would have done in with legislation. That, again, would cost the American people between \$300 and \$400 billion a year.

This is kind of in the weeds, but to do that you have to have an endangerment finding and the endangerment finding has to be a proclamation by the administration. It has to be based on science.

A year-and-a-half ago, right before the Copenhagen event, again, Lisa Jackson, the Administrator of the EPA, a very fine person who is courageous enough to tell the truth when asked a question, was in and I again asked in a public forum: Director Jackson, I am going to leave for Copenhagen. I am going to be a one-man truth squad to go over there and undo the damage that has been done by people who are going to go over there and try to make people think we are going to pass all kinds of legislation. If you are going to do this through the admin-

istration, that means you have to base it on some type of science. I asked the question: What science would you base this assumption on, the endangerment finding?

The answer was the IPCC. That is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It is the United Nations. For others who get offended by some of the things the United Nations does, it all started with the United Nations. We are going to be in a position to see where we would go from here.

With that, coincidentally—and it was not by design—somebody uncovered a lot of e-mails and things over in Europe that totally debunked or discredited what they were trying to do over there with the science. In other words, the IPCC was cooking the science. I think we all know that.

Now we have an effort to use an endangerment finding to try to do this by regulation. They are going full ahead as much as they can.

I have to say, it is my feeling the Obama administration does not want to have fossil fuels. When I say that, I would back up some of those things by stating what the administration said. Alan Krueger, the Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy, said:

The administration believes it is not longer sufficient to address the nation's energy needs by finding more fossil fuels.

We are talking about oil, gas, coal, fossil fuels.

Then there was a statement made:

To the extent lower tax rate encourages overproduction of oil and gas, it is detrimental to long-term energy security. . . .

By this, the Nation is saying we want green energy. That is fine. After I am dead and gone, I am sure the technology will be there and we will be able to run the country on green energy. In the meantime, you cannot do it without oil, gas, and coal. Right now we are depending on coal for 50 percent of all of our energy.

I wish to say also, here is another statement out of the Obama administration. Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy, told the Wall Street Journal "somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe."

In other words, unless we get the American people complaining about the high price of gas, we are not going to be doing anything. The bottom line is they are trying to boost the price of gas to do that.

This is the surprise here. I could not have said this a year ago, but the CRS, Congressional Research Service, which pretty much is not challenged, came out with the fact that we in the United States have more recoverable reserves in oil, gas, and coal than any other country in the world. Here we are. The next is Russia. Next to that is Saudi Arabia. You can see that we have more than Saudi Arabia, China, and Iran all put together. That is us right there, the United States of America. We have those reserves.

You will hear people say we do not because we only have 3 percent of the